

ALAKAZARCA!

ANIL

Perth, Australia

GAME

What do the following ten statements have in common, other than being semi-cryptic?

1. Arcane arcade game ALAKAZARCA! can end a kid in pain in New Villa, Ganymede.
2. Deco Paris chides dorks in vain.
3. Hi, Mom and Pap! A paid game I'd cook, deal ganja, LSD, mescaline. OK?
4. Candid Nehi Cola organ-chime/rime flak made Coca-Cola gaga.
5. MD: "Dear alky: Wine + wine + wine + wine + a lid deal (coca) = near-decade mind-coma!"
6. I, Nazi nut, invade Nepal, a couth India, New York's land. Net? Nil!
7. Oh, Allah, I come, wail, hide maid, deny Deil, deny Deva-Lama pact. I act, demand many arms, ...armed, end alms, cane maid, cop a deal—a kill-a-Moor!
8. *Florida*? Liar! I come arid, scar florid land!
9. Gaia ark's lame-mind vandals (car, arms, coal mine, main coin-gain game), mouthin' malarky, scar land, made Gaia wane.
10. In Gaia ark's land? I, anHINGA, hind, orca, mola, marine cone, cony, paca, alpaca, panda, kaka, llama, cat, nutria, zorilla + alga, aralia, cane, coca, cola, floral allamanda, linden, corks, rim oak.

Notes: 3. Would-be drug dealer seeks parental approval. 4. Nehi was the original name of Royal Crown Cola. Organ-chime/rime is an ad jingle (as flak). 7. Imagined I.S. vow; Moor stands for any non-I.S. Muslim (among others!). 8. global warming prophecy 9-10. Gaia = Earth or the earth goddess.

The answer is that, ignoring spaces and punctuation, all ten are concatenations of official US state postal abbreviation (PA) bigrams. (Alakazarca is the PAs of the first five states alphabetically; it poses nicely as a magic incantation like abracadabra!) The 50 PAs = 7.4% of 676 possible bigrams including 31 (20%) of 156 vowel-containing bigrams, 43 (28%) with the other PAs listed below.

Two previous Word Ways articles (76-91, 86-183) dealt with PA words but not sentences. They're also found in Ross Eckler's *Names and Games* (1986). Neither found words that include the five PAs missing from above (mn, mt, nv, tx, vt). Can you?

Darryl Francis (76-91) found five words longer than Ganymede, my longest excluding the nonce alakazarca: four 10s (alkylamine, calamondin, cascarilla, Nectarinia) and one 12 (cacogalactia). All but the first of these five are also given in a current wordplay website game calling for the longest PA words, www.wordnik.com.

Can you find any other words of twelve or more letters? Although I and the Word Ways references haven't, you might also include in your search other official USPO overseas and Canadian bigram abbreviations, as did the wordnik website, adding aa, ab, ae, ap, as, bc, cz, DC, fm, gu, mb, mp, nb, nl, nt, ns, nu, on, pe, pi, pr, pw, qc, sk, tt, yt and vi to your arsenal. But all these extra bigrams have failed so far to help wordnik find any words longer than cacogalactia.

Indefinitely long "words" can be made from imaginary, possibly real, DNA sequences made of runs of -CA-, -CT- and/or -GA- or proteins made of runs of -val-ala- and/or -arg-ala-.

I've translated Mary's Lamb into PA words (except the title) by letting the lamb be a young alpaca and the school [of whales!] an arcade of writing, speaking and memorizing.

Mary Had a Little Statement

Maria, kid alpaca (wan, milky) wind wide in land.

Oho! Kid misdid, came in in gam's inky/oral meme memo arcade.

Many o' kids chide, mime-game alpaca in arcade.

SELF-ADDRESSED TOWNS

Some cities and towns contain their state's PA. Alaska has a dozen places ending in -ak. Here are 28 examples that avoid redundancies like INdianapolis or TexARkana. I also rejected "Any Town, ConneCTicut" which doesn't really fit the definition. Can you add more states than those here?

TuscALoosa, Alabama

KodiAK, Alaska

StAR City, Arkansas

LanCAster, California

Fort COLLins, Colorado

FreDERica, Delaware

GAinesville, Georgia

HIlo, Hawaii

JacksonvILLE, Illinois

BloomINGton, Indiana

IndIAnola, Iowa

KentuckY Lake, Kentucky

LAke Charles, Louisiana

MErcer, Maine

MAAnsfield, Massachusetts

MIDland, Michigan

MOberly, Missouri

SidNEY, Nebraska

AlbaNY, New York

GraND Forks, North Dakota

JOHnstown, Ohio

OKmulgee, Oklahoma

PORTland, Oregon

PALmerton, Pennsylvania

BRIstol, Rhode Island

SpotsylVAnia, Virginia

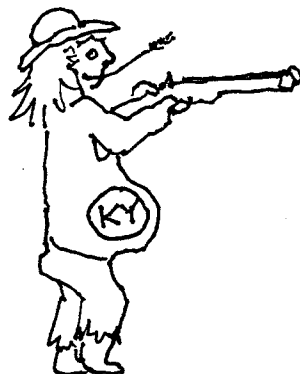
Walla Walla, Washington

WIttenberg, Wisconsin

What about cities that contain their countries' international competition three-letter abbreviations, like SaUSAlito (CA)? Again excluding redundancies like MEXicali.

STATE SECRET AGENTS

I now blow the whistle on states that send their PAs into 41 other states as spies. KentuckY has an internal spy. (Unless it's an embryo from hillbilly inbreeding? Not unless ConneCTicut too has such



inbreds.) Thirty states hide two or more, fourteen three or more. Connecticut (with a selfie), Maryland, North and South Carolina host four. As to agents in other states, twenty-three states do not spy. On the other hand, particularly paranoid states send many spies, especially IN (10), NE (9), IA and OR (7), and AR (5).

MAINE is composed entirely of spies. (No wonder, it's the closest to Moscow. That's why I've never dared go there!) MARYLAND and NEW YORK have but one non-spy letter. The "purest" states, neither spying nor spied on, are Kansas and Texas. They also don't contain any self-addressed cities I could find. Idaho and Utah also seem free of self-addressed cities and spies but they do spy on other states. Texas is the most isolationist of all. It doesn't even contribute to any words or phrases in the state-ments above. Similarly Minnesota, Montana, Nevada and Vermont do not spy or occur in the statements and contain no self-addressed cities, but all four are spied upon.

In summary, here are the fifty states, giving for each:

- 1) its PA;
- 2) the number of spies within (in bold type; excluding selfies);
- 3) the number of spies it deploys (excluding selfies);
- 4) the presence or absence of self-addressed towns (+ or -);
- 5) the number of appearances of its PA in the ten statements plus Mary's Lamb.

Alabama AL 2 1 + 20	Louisiana LA 1 6 + 18	Ohio OH 1 0 + 2
Alaska AK 2 2 + 7	Maine ME 3 1 + 15	Oklahoma OK 2 0 + 4
Arizona AZ 1 0 - 2	Maryland MD 4 0 - 2	Oregon OR 0 7 + 11
Arkansas AR 0 5 + 17	Massachusetts MA 0 4 + 15	Pennsylvania PA 2 0 + 13
California CA 3 2 + 19	Michigan MI 2 4 + 5	Rhode island RI 3 3 + 7
Colorado CO 1 3 + 17	Minnesota MN 3 0 - 0	SouthCarolina SC 4 1 - 6
Connecticut CT 3 0 - 2	Mississippi MS 1 0 - 3	South Dakota SD 2 0 - 3
Delaware DE 3 1 + 24	Missouri MO 2 2 + 5	Tennessee TN 1 0 - 2
Florida FL 3 0 - 4	Montana MT 1 0 - 0	Texas TX 0 0 - 0
Georgia GA 2 1 + 16	Nebraska NE 0 9 + 19	Utah UT 0 2 - 4
Hawaii HI 2 4 + 10	Nevada NV 2 0 - 0	Virginia VA 2 2 + 4
Idaho ID 0 1 - 14	New Hampshire NH 2 0 - 1	Vermont VT 1 0 - 0
Illinois IL 1 0 + 7	New Jersey NJ 1 0 - 1	Washington WA 2 3 + 3
Indiana IN 2 10 + 19	New Mexico NM 3 0 - 2	West Virginia WV 2 0 - 1
Iowa IA 1 7 + 8	New York NY 3 0 + 6	Wisconsin WI 3 0 + 6
Kansas KS 0 0 - 5	North Carolina NC 4 0 - 2	Wyoming WY 2 1 - 1
Kentucky KY 0 0 + 4	North Dakota ND 2 3 + 17	

Thanks to Ross and Faith Eckler for pointing me to the Word Ways and website references.